

REMARKS

The Claims in the present application have been subjected to a Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 as follows:

Group I -- claims 1-6, directed to a rubber extruding method; and

Group II -- claims 7-13, directed to a rubber extruding apparatus.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, Group I, claims 1-6.

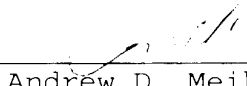
It is respectfully requested that the above-noted Restriction Requirement be withdrawn. It is submitted that the elected method claims 1-6 recite method embodiments which include examination and search issues significantly related to those of apparatus claims 7-13. Consequently, it is submitted that there is no significant burden placed on the Patent Examiner to examine all of the claims of the present application such that the above-noted Restriction Requirement should be withdrawn.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Andrew D. Meikle, #32,868

ADM/csm
0229-0676P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000